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for Halloween**

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\$1.00 VOL. 30 NO. 44

OCTOBER 28 - NOVEMBER 3, 2021



Courtesy Atria Glen Cove

FORMER SEA CLIFF Mayor Ed Lieberman is offering seniors the chance to learn about the historical communities they live in — and the opportunity to leave their residence and venture out for a few hours.

Former S.C. mayor takes seniors on bus tours of history

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
adurkin@liherald.com

Local seniors have been learning about local history on private bus tours of the area led by former Sea Cliff Mayor Ed Lieberman, who tells the stories of a number of historical landmarks.

The Oyster Bay, Sagamore Hill Teddy Roosevelt Bus

Tour is the most frequent of a number of tours focusing on different areas of the community and their past. On this tour, Lieberman highlights President Theodore Roosevelt's life and related landmarks.

"I have a detailed conversation about Teddy Roosevelt's life — his family, his life and presidency," Lieberman said.

"The tour leads us to Sagamore Hill, and then, in the interim, we go through the North Shore areas and I lay out the historic significance of the villages we pass through."

Sagamore Hill was the primary residence of Roosevelt and his wife, Edith, from 1886 until they died, the former

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

N. S. schools ranked among best in state

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
adurkin@liherald.com

The North Shore School District recently received recognition when the U.S. News & World Report released its 2022 "Best U.S. Schools" ranking list, naming three North Shore schools in the top 15 in their categories in New York state. Sea Cliff School ranked 11th and Glen Head School 12th among best K-8 schools. North Shore Middle School ranked 30th among middle schools.

U.S. News published rankings and data on more than 80,000 of the 110,000 public elementary and middle schools analyzed for their report across the country, ranking them at the state and district levels. The best charter and magnet schools were ranked in stand-alone categories. The school ranking program began in 2007.

"Given that the scoring used to establish the top elementary and middle schools in the state was almost entirely rooted in

students' performance on mathematics and reading/language arts state assessments, this is truly an earned honor," Interim Superintendent of Schools Dr. Tom Dolan said. "By focusing on academics, these rankings provide parents insight into a key element of school quality—commitment to an academic program and the provision of resources to students and staff."

Earning this distinction speaks volumes about the impact that our educators have on our students' achievements.

JEANETTE WOJCIK
Sea Cliff School
Principal

The methodology for the brand-new rankings for K-8 schools focuses on two areas: math and reading proficiency—how well students perform on state assessments, and math and reading performance—how well they perform compared to expectations.

At Sea Cliff Elementary, 92 percent of students scored at or above the proficient level in math, and 92 percent scored at or above that level for reading. Glen Head's proficiency scores were the same.

"I am honored to be part of a learning community that contin-

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HERALD NEIGHBORS



Photos courtesy Kiwanis Club of North Shore

DOG SHOW JUDGE Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, Bruce Kennedy, Kiwanian Lauren Zobelein, Lora Cusamano, and event Judge Lily Kle.



MIA, A 139-POUND mastiff breed, dressed up as a lion.

North Shore canines take the runway

The first annual Kiwanis Dog Show was held on Oct. 17 at the Garvies Point Dog Park. This was a fun filled event bringing all the surrounding communities coming together for a great cause: the Kiwanis “Klothes For Kids” program. This event raised \$4,700 to buy back-to-school clothes for 20 to 25 needy children in the community.

A total of 30 canines strutted down the runway, tails wagging high, bringing smiles galore to all those who attended. Judges Lily Kle, senior products development specialist for Fetch for Pets, and Glen Cove Councilman Gaitley Stevenson- Mathews awarded prizes in numerous categories to the participants. Best In Show was presented to “Madison Merdog,” owned by Former Mayor of Sea Cliff Bruce Kennedy and Lora Cusamano, who dressed in matching mermaid outfits.

Kiwanian John Canning took on the job of MC, and the North Shore Key Club helped with the event, which was created by Leslie Kle and her committee Doug Barnaby, Leslie McCarthy and Lauren Zobelein. The Gold Sponsors, who provided financial support for the dog show, were: Opal Advisers, Mid-Atlantic Waterproofing and Kiwanian Ed Stack and his wife Chris.



TWO TAME TIGERS.



THE GHOSTBUSTERS KEPT the attendees safe.

Seniors explore local historic sites by bus

October 28, 2021 — SEA CLIFF/GLEN HEAD HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

president in 1919 and Edith in 1948.

Another bus tour goes along Route 25A in Northport, and Lieberman details George Washington's Culper Spy Ring, a network of Revolutionary War spies who were active in Setauket and Oyster Bay.

"I came up with the idea for the tours as a way to fill my time up between my practice and not being the mayor anymore," said Lieberman, who is an attorney. "It started out because I wanted to do a walking tour of the Village of Sea Cliff, the main street, and explain the [significance] of the different buildings and parks in the area."

The seniors who take the tours are residents of the Atria in Glen Cove. "The residents have been enjoying learning from Ed. He really brightens their day," said Diane Ziems, the facility's executive director. "They're learning something about their community. My residents ask a lot of questions, and find he adds a lot of humor to the information and the tour. Ed truly is a wealth of knowledge."

Now, Lieberman says, the seniors are filling the bus each time there's a new tour, and he is taking second and third trips to some locations so the people who didn't get on the first tour can see what they missed. On Oct. 20, Lieberman took the bus on the Teddy Roosevelt tour again, with a second group of Atria residents.

"It was really just something that I wanted to fill my time with and benefit the



Courtesy Atria Glen Cove

ATRIA SENIORS HAVE clearly enjoyed Lieberman's tours, packing the bus and requesting additional trips.

seniors," Lieberman said. "I also try to get them interested in some of the surrounding history that we have in our immediate areas here."

His next tour is scheduled for Friday, on which he will partner with an organization called the Mutual Concerns Committee, and explore historic sites in Roslyn and Great Neck with a different group of seniors, from Sea Cliff and Glen Head. Mutual Concerns is a grass-roots group that formed 42 years ago to meet some pressing needs of residents of the North Shore School District. The organization

hosts a senior lunch every Tuesday, providing hot meals and fun activities for the community's seniors. The group agreed to collaborate with Lieberman on the bus tours in order to get more seniors involved who weren't Atria residents.

"I was glad Ed came to me — I thought it was a good idea," said Peggie Como, president of Mutual Concerns. "He's a big history buff. He just knows so much about the origins of our community."

Another benefit of the tours, according to Como, is the opportunity they offer less-than-mobile seniors, who can't get out much, to enjoy the historic tours alongside their neighbors. "We have about 20 to 30 seniors in our lunch program, and they love to have different things to do," Como said. "[The tours] get them out of the house and get them to socialize, especially after being cooped up inside for so many months."

"I also give talks about the law and the history of law in group discussions at the Atria, to get the seniors intellectually motivated," Lieberman said. "The bus tour idea came from those talks; it was something that I always wanted to do."

Lieberman is looking to expand the tours to surrounding communities. The current tours aren't just limited to Atria residents. Anyone who is interested can call Como at (516) 675-7239.

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE

New infections, week of Oct. 11-18

4

Total infections as of Oct. 18

1,683

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Shabbat Ends 6:45 pm

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U.S. News ranks N.S. schools among best

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ues to achieve such wonderful recognition," Sea Cliff School Principal Jeanette Wojcik said. "Earning this distinction speaks volumes about the impact that our educators have on our students' achievements in collaboration with the support from their families."

Glenwood Landing, the third elementary school within the North Shore District, while not breaking the top 20, was ranked 97th out of the 2,211 elementary schools ranked in the state.

These rankings only include public schools, and the state assessment data used in the rankings is from the 2018-19 school year, thus predating the coronavirus pandemic and its impact on test-taking.

"I am so proud of the work our teachers do each day to support our students' academic development," Glen Head School Principal Dr. Peter Rufa said in a release. "By creating a caring and innovative learning environment, our students have become committed individuals who possess a deep love of learning."

Compared with the entire district, both Sea Cliff and Glen Head schools did better in math and reading. In the North Shore School District, 85 percent of students tested at the proficient level or higher for reading, and 90 percent tested at or above that level for math. The pair of elementary schools also scored better in math and reading compared with stu-



Herald file photo

NORTH SHORE DISTRICT schools were ranked among the best in New York, according to the U.S. News & World report.

dents across the state. Across New York, 47 percent of students tested at or above the proficient reading level and 50 percent for math.

U.S. News also ranked roughly 17,860 public high schools out of the nearly 24,000 reviewed. This is the count of public high schools that had a 12th grade enrollment of 15 or greater, or otherwise had sufficient enrollment in other high

school grades during the 2018-19 school year to be analyzed.

North Shore Middle School ranked 30th among the 1,219 New York Middle Schools analyzed for U.S. News report, with an overall score of 97.62/100. Schools are scored and ranked on their students' performance on state-required tests, graduation rates and how well they prepare their students for high school. Of North

Shore Middle School's students, 87 percent scored at or above the proficient level for math, and 80 percent scored at or above that level for reading.

The U.S. News Best High Schools rankings included 18,000 schools that were ranked on six factors based on their performance on state assessments, graduation rate and how well they prepare students for college.



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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, Oct. 29

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "Rosemary's Baby" (1968) at the library. Terrifying and darkly comic, "Rosemary's Baby" stars Mia Farrow as a young mother-to-be who grows suspicious that her over-friendly neighbors (Sidney Blackmer and Oscar-winner Ruth Gordon) and self-involved husband (John Cassavetes) are hatching a satanic plot against her and her baby. Roman Polanski's horror masterpiece has never been outdone for sheer psychological terror.

Special Halloween Storytime

Dress up in costume and join Miss Selina on the Bayville Free Library lawn at 4 p.m. for a special Halloween storytime. Don't forget to take a treat bag before you leave. For ages 4 and up.

Saturday, Oct. 30

Halloween Parade and Festival

The Glencove Downtown Business Improvement District is hosting its annual Halloween festival and parade, beginning at 1:30 p.m. in the Staples parking lot. Following the parade will be a festival including a costume contest, circus performance, a live DJ and more.

Deep Roots Farmers Market

100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The weekly farmers market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables and eggs, fresh baked bread, honey, seafood and more.

Sunday, Oct. 31

Life in Pink celebration

Dress in pink and head to 47 Cottage Row, Glen Cove for an event in tribute to cancer survivors entitled, "Celebrate Life in Pink," beginning at 12:45 p.m. Doctors will be on hand to discuss breast cancer awareness, self-exams and other preventative care in addition to conducting health screenings for attendees.



Courtesy Raynham Hall Museum

Raynham Hall's 5th Annual "Ghost Walk" Parade

Raynham Hall Museum will host its 5th Annual "Ghost Walk," a costumed parade featuring giant ghostly puppets of ancient Townsend family members being led by costumed paraders and their four-legged friends. The event, which takes place on Oct. 30, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will kick off at the Christ Church Rectory at 61 East Main Street in Oyster Bay, then proceed through the hamlet and conclude at Raynham Hall Museum, where, after the parade, a dance party will take place with special entertainment, food available for sale courtesy of Cooper's Bluff and Coach Meeting House Food Truck and beer will be available from the Oyster Bay Brewing Company.

Monday, Nov. 1

Minecraft Mania

Beginning at 10 a.m., in this program, participants attempt to plan and build a city on a custom Minecraft island with certain expectations and restrictions. Players must work together to solve common problems civil engineers face! Register online at locustvalleylibrary.org.

Tuesday, Nov. 2

Mysteries of the Paranormal

Beginning at 7 p.m. at the Bayville Free Library, join award-winning actress Leslie Goddard, Ph.D., as she brings to life Lizzie Borden, accused of the brutal hatchet murder of her father and step-

mother in 1892. Hear Lizzie's story come alive as she talks about her life growing up in Fall River, Massachusetts, her estrangement from her stepmother and her troubled relationship with her father. Was Lizzie a desperate and unsettled daughter who resorted to murder? Or an innocent woman who could never escape the trauma that destroyed her life? This event is virtual. Register by email at adultprograms@bayvillefreelibrary.org.

Into the Forest: a Book Discussion with Rebecca Frankel

HMTC is hosting a program at 6p.m. via Zoom with bestselling author Rebecca Frankel about her newest book, which recounts an amazing tale of perseverance, bravery, and love as it follows the Rabinowitz family as they escape from the Nazis and eventually settle in the

United States. Hear the author discuss how she learned about these true events and more about the book that Publisher's Weekly called a "gut-wrenching yet inspirational story" that leaves readers "on the edge of their seats." Register at: hmtcli.org.

Wednesday, Nov. 3

Scared in the Park After Dark

A Halloween-themed drive in movie night beginning at 6:30 p.m. will feature the movie "Casper" as the final film in the county's drive-in movie series. Showings are free to attend and will take place at Eisenhower Park's pop-up drive-in theater located at parking lot 6A, with space for up to 185 cars. Food trucks will be onsite so movie goers can also get their fix of sweets and snacks.

Trunk-or-Treat

At 5 p.m., before Casper begins, families will be able to participate in a "Trunk or Treat" event at Eisenhower Park, lot 6A. To participate in "Trunk or Treat," parents are encouraged to decorate the back of their cars for Halloween and provide candy for kids to "trick or treat" from car-to-car. Costumes are encouraged.

Thursday, Nov. 4

Returning Home after the Holocaust: Panel Discussion

Beginning at 6 p.m., the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County will host a virtual panel discussion with award-winning authors and translators. These three women who have explored how various individuals found ways, against all odds, to reclaim their heritage, history, and birthright after the Holocaust. They will also discuss how working on these books has transformed their own lives.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to jnossa@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The Glen Cove Board of Education will meet next on Nov. 3 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board will meet on Nov. 16, at 10 a.m.
- The Glen Cove City Council will meet on Nov. 9, at 7:30 p.m. in City Hall.
- The North Shore Board of Education will meet next on Nov. 18 at 7:45 p.m.
- The Locust Valley Board of Education will meet on Nov. 16.

O.B. Town budget raises questions for residents

BY ANNEMARIE DURKIN
adurkin@liherald.com

Oyster Bay's Town Board held a hearing on Oct. 19 to discuss Supervisor Joseph Saladino's proposed budget of roughly \$311 million for 2022, and to answer any questions or comments from the public regarding the budget.

"We're collectively very proud of the milestones made in returning fiscal strength to the Town of Oyster Bay, and we want you to be proud of them too," Saladino said. "From a \$47 million surplus in our cumulative fund balance, meaning our ongoing operating budget now had a \$47 million surplus at the end of 2016 and a \$44 million deficit. We started the following year with a \$24 million deficit. We kept building and building and working our way up to that \$47 million surplus, while cutting taxes and we're exceptionally proud of that."

The proposed budget would also extend the \$1.3 million property tax cut approved by the Town Board in 2018, freezing property taxes for the fourth straight year according to Saladino.

Some residents were confused, however, by how the Town Board came to have such a large surplus. Taxes have been frozen the last few years, not bringing in any additional revenue and raises were given to town employees.

"Touting a multi-million dollar surplus makes me wonder if the budget is being balanced correctly, because if so, then we shouldn't have such a large surplus," said Lisa Reinhardt, who is currently running for a seat on the Oyster Bay Town Board. "I agree that we need to rethink maybe a fund. I'm just concerned with such a large surplus, that it kind of means the budget hasn't been balanced correctly. I was just wondering if we do in fact have a multi-year financial plan yet."

Rob D'Arienzo, the town's director of finance said there are many components to consider. The two largest are that the town was able to dramatically reduce workforce costs and greatly reduce the debt service.

"The reason we're able to have an expense budget that stays at \$311 million despite the pandemic, is because we've done such great work in terms of keeping payroll down and keeping debt service down," D'Arienzo said. "Our debt-service payments scheduled in 2022 are \$8 million less than they were in 2021; there are large swaths of debt that are coming off the books, fast and furious. We have less debt now because we borrowed less money."

Another concern voiced by town resi-



Christina Daly/Herald

THE 2022 PROPOSED budget for the Town of Oyster Bay was shared for the first time last week.

dents was transparency, which some said was absent during the budget discussions and actual review process.

"The town today has almost 20 different departments, which is a huge amount of departments that could very well be reorganized, not necessarily cutting people," Kevin McKenna, an Oyster Bay resident said. "They could be reorganized in order to be more productive,"

McKenna suggested the board take on a more detailed approach to reviewing proposed budgets, pointing to surrounding municipalities' line-by-line review process of the budget each year. He'd like to see each department present their individual budgets and give the public an opportunity to ask questions about that specific department that weighs into the overall budget.

"It all sounds good when you talk, and there's no doubt that you guys have done a great job getting the town to where it is today, thank you," he said. "But now you need to have an operational review, department by department. In my opinion, this town next year could be writing checks back to the public that are larger than the peanuts that our [county executive] is giving to Nassau County."

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JOHN HAMBROOK

OYSTER BAY COVE

Chief,
Oyster Bay
Fire Department



When Covid hit, it was confusing at first. It was an unprecedented situation for us. In the beginning, everything stopped. People stopped calling 911 because they were afraid to go to the hospital. We were dealing with a lot of fear.

We were dealing with people who were concerned, scared, and some had potential respiratory issues. I did what I was told. I was actually more concerned about my people. Some got Covid right away, but fortunately none of them had to go to the hospital.

What I focused on was getting [personal protective equipment]. We already had it but weren't sure how long we would be needing it or how effective it was. So, we had a PPE drive and got a lot of response from the community. We ended up never running out.

During Covid, we went to fewer fires, I

think, because people were aware of what was going on at home. They weren't rushing out the door in the morning and coming home exhausted. My EMS officers really rose to the occasion during Covid.

That first year was a long year, and it was pretty tough. The Fire Department really worked hard, the department and the officers.

I was watching all of the conferences to figure out what we were supposed to do. And our battalion had conferences regularly, too, so we always knew what we could and couldn't do.

I'm proud of what we did in Oyster Bay. We are a completely volunteer Fire Department — no one is on the payroll. The volunteers drive this community.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO



CAROL WRIGHT

NASSAU COUNTY

Pandemic Response
Coordinator/Charge Nurse,
Mount Sinai South Nassau



I am in charge of coordinating the Covid-19 swab team for the employees that are being checked for symptomatic or exposure reasons. I prepare and adjust the schedule as need be, assisting other nurses in swabbing, and coordinating registration for new and incoming patients.

We started in May of last year after Covid first hit us, and we started off with the pre-procedurals. It has escalated from swabbing about 150 patients a day in any kind of weather and then it dipped because Covid was being contained and people were wearing proper PPE.

In 2021, the Covid cases took a turn for the better and so we were doing less swabbing in May and June. In July, cases started to escalate again because of the Delta variant, so we were

swabbing more people again. So, we have been swabbing people whether they have been vaccinated or not. We're back up to seeing up to 70 to 80 patients a day.

It's very disconcerting watching so many people being infected, but as a pandemic unit we feel good about what we're doing because we are controlling the cases that might come into the hospital for people who are having surgery.

We're controlling that environment to protect the doctors, patients, the hospital staff, and their families. Swabbing isn't a pleasant job, but it is a job that's necessary. If you're a nurse, it's something you get used to.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

KAREN GLEASON

LEVITTOWN

Chief Quality Officer,
St. John's Episcopal
Hospital



I always had a passion for patients and their families, and throughout my career I always wanted to help drive improvement for our patients and their families. Throughout the years, as I began my career, I realized that as I know I was providing our patients with great care, I wanted to lead at a higher level and drive improvement across the organization, and that led me to a role in administration. ... While I might not have direct one-on-one impact with our patients, I know that I'm making a difference every day for our patients, the hospital at-large and our community.

My career is everything to me. I always had a passion for people and helping and advocating for others, and I feel that working in this administrative role helps me to strategically align the hospital's mission and

vision with quality and patient safety always at the forefront.

On a personal level, four family members died in April 2020, at the height of it, and it was not an easy thing to go through. Other than that thank God we stayed safe and were able to keep our commitment to the community.

Our run numbers went down as the Nassau County Police Department had the FEMA buses and that relieved the pressure and stress on us. With people being home there were less false alarms and that made it a little easier.

Operationally now, we are somewhat back to normal. Most people are vaccinated in the fire department with the delta variant, which is kind of a scary thing. Bottom line, if we do the right thing everyone will be safe.

I ♥ My Community

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HERALD

Rep. Suozzi fights for SALT repeal Page 2

Fall music fest this weekend Page 8

Auxiliary police chief appointed Page 10



Celebrating art and autos
Artist Dean Adams spent last Saturday afternoon painting some of the cars on display at the Art and Automobiles event in downtown Glen Cove. Story, more photos, Page 3.

'She has an eye for it'

Teen creates music video for local songwriter

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@herald.com

With the prevalence of iPhones, editing software and platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, anyone with a digital camera can create and share videos. Having the tools doesn't necessarily mean a person has talent, but for 15-year-old Ava Solange of Glen Cove, an amateur interest in videography led to a paid opportunity.

The high school junior already has a portfolio of completed video projects, including a professional music video. Initially, she said, her interest was in photography. But, she added, "As I started working with my camera more, I realized I could film videos."

Like many teens, Ava taught herself how to use the camera by making TikTok videos, and expanded the scope of her projects. This summer, after hearing a song by singer-songwriter Chris Armata of Oyster Bay, she decided to bigger: shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Armata's song "Gratitude" while vacationing in Southern California, enlisting her mother and her aunt as subjects.

"I knew that I'd have some nice shots for scenery, and I thought that would go well with the song," Ava said. "I was just picturing a lot of fun dancing and a good time, because that's what the song is about — appreciating the happy moments."

After four days of filming with her iPhone and a drone, she spent two days editing down about 90 minutes of footage for the three-minute song. "I had to look for the best parts of the videos and see what went well with the song and the rhythm of the song," she explained.

Using the drone footage in parts of the videos and see what went well with the song and the rhythm of the song," she explained.

AVA SOLANGE

I feel like it really captures the vibe and the feeling that the music gives you.

A new school year, more Covid challenges

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@herald.com

...and the high school took the brunt of the storm."
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ELECTION 2021

COMPTROLLER

Elaine Phillips

Party: Republican

Age: 61

Professional experience: Financial adviser, vice president of mortgage finance and institutional sales

Political career: Formerly state senator, 7th District, mayor of Village of Flower Hill

On the issues: As Nassau County comptroller, Elaine Phillips said she would play a crucial role in "objectively identifying those governmental agencies whose performance is lagging and making recommendations to address deficiencies." An example of a lack of adequate management and adaption has been seen within the Department of



Consumer Affairs, she said. The county administration, she said, should "follow the Town of Hempstead's successful practice of issuing permits and licenses off campus through the use of mobile trailers. Strict safeguards have been employed to meet the needs of taxpayers."

While in the private sector at Goldman Sachs, she said, she oversaw the diversity efforts, and while she was a New York state senator, she sponsored multiple educational and outreach

forums on diversity. As Nassau comptroller, she said she would work to ensure diversity, equity and inclusion in the workplace, and educate and promote solutions to ensure equal rights for all. At the same time, she would undertake performance audits of all county departments to ascertain whether they are meeting diversity, equity and inclusion metrics.

As comptroller, she said, she would serve as the "taxpayer's watchdog." "Taxes and spending need to be controlled in Nassau County," she said. "I have the background and expertise to implement audits to weed out waste, abuse and fraud, saving taxpayers money. Further, I will audit the recent property tax reassessment to determine the extent to which mistakes [were] made."

Brian Cronin

Party: Democratic

Age: 40

Professional experience: Corporate attorney, business litigator

Political career: Second-time candidate

On the issues: Brian Cronin said the Nassau County comptroller's office must lean into the "new normal" and embrace modernization, saying that the office still uses technology from the middle of the 20th century and is thus overdue for an upgrade. In doing so, it would allow the office to adapt more effectively not only to the "new normal" but also to any hurdles to come.



Nassau has become a "hub of diversity," he said. As comptroller, he would "represent the entire county" and strive to have voices from every community heard. Many new businesses in Nassau are minority-owned, he said, and he would work to ensure that county contracts were evenly distributed among business owners.

The comptroller, he said, is the "taxpayers' watchdog responsible for fighting waste and fraud," adding that the office will take on "increasing importance given

the uncertainty of the post-Covid economy."

He would recruit "high-level professionals from the private sector to join our team so that we have the skilled team required to address these unprecedented times," adding, "Taxpayers must have confidence that this team is not politicized. Like most taxpayers, I am sick and tired of divisive politics. This is why I have committed to hiring a moderate Republican as my top deputy. Such bipartisanship has become far too rare in today's politics."



LOCAL
ELECTIONS
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CANDIDATE PROFILES, BALLOT REVIEW AND MORE INSIDE!



Blakeman, Curran vie for county executive

By JEFFREY BESSEN

jbessen@liherald.com

Democratic incumbent Laura Curran is running for her second four-term as county executive. Her Republican opponent is Town of Hempstead Councilman Bruce Blakeman. The Herald asked the candidates three pertinent questions to get their take on the issues.

Herald: Nassau is one of three counties that pay the highest average property taxes in the state. What is your plan to help reduce the tax burden?

Curran: As the hardworking families of Nassau know, you can't get far without a balanced budget. Before I took office, decades of wasteful corruption and reckless mismanagement plagued our county. I am proud that through dogged fiscal discipline, my administration has turned budget deficits into surpluses. Nassau families deserve to know their hard-earned money is being spent responsibly. That's why I devoted my first term to cleaning up the mess others left behind and bringing real accountability to government:

I delivered four balanced budgets and consecutive budget surpluses; secured Nassau's first bond upgrade in over a decade; held the line on property taxes and proposed a responsible \$70 million tax reduction for 2022, and a \$150 million tax reduction over the next four years.

As Nassau continues the economic recovery from Covid, I am also proud to say that we are in a position to give American Rescue Plan dollars back to the taxpayers. Our books are balanced, so I am giving \$375 direct cash payments to more than 400,000 households. I have worked hard to earn the trust of Nassau taxpayers, and I will continue to pursue tax relief, like my tax cut, without sacrificing our future fiscal stability.

Blakeman: Laura Curran's reassessment is crushing families and seniors with higher property taxes. School tax bills are arriving at home this October, and just like last year, property taxes will soar for an overwhelming majority of homeowners because of Curran's reassessment. While your property taxes are going up, Laura Curran's taxes went down [decreased by \$255].

For the majority of homeowners, Curran's tax hikes continue for three more years unless you stop her this Election Day. I believe it's wrong for Laura Curran to increase county property taxes to the highest level ever in Nassau's history while also generating millions in surplus funds.

As county executive, I will end Curran's reassessment and cut taxes. Government should never collect more than it needs to operate. My plan cuts property taxes by over \$128 million – that's \$58 million more than Laura Curran is willing to give back – and I'll pay for that tax



Bruce Blakeman

Age: 66

Hometown: Atlantic Beach

Professional Background: Attorney

Political experience: Town of Hempstead councilman; Nassau County legislator including serving as presiding officer; Port Authority commissioner

cut by returning Nassau County's entire budget surplus to residents. I will continue to return budget surpluses each year while restricting new spending and reducing debt. It's time to put government on a serious diet, and it's time to really cut taxes.

Herald: The residential property assessment system still needs an overhaul. What would you do to make it beneficial for homeowners and the county?

Curran: Nassau's assessment system has been a mess for decades. Politician after politician kicked this can down the road, choosing what was politically convenient over what was right. I ran on a promise to finally address our broken assessment system, and I did just that. My administration took on a tough fight and had the political courage to implement a fair and accurate reassessment of the tax roll, which had been frozen for nearly a decade.

The accuracy of my administration's reassessment has been verified by Newsday, by the state and by independent experts. I have ensured residents have the opportunity to adapt to changes in assessment values by implementing my Taxpayer Protection Plan, which phases in any assessment correction over the next five years. I will also always protect residents' right to grieve their property assessment.

In my first term, I tackled the fiscal mismanagement that has plagued Nassau for decades, turning chronic deficits into surpluses. I took on reassessment when my predecessors lacked the political courage to do so. As a result, our assessment system is fairer and more accurate today than it has been in years.



Laura Curran

Age: 53

Hometown: Baldwin

Professional Background: Journalist, Herald Community Newspapers, New York Daily News and New York Post

Political experience: Baldwin Board of Education and Nassau County legislator 2014 to 2017

Blakeman: Laura Curran placed a huge financial burden on the backs of families and seniors, with an overwhelming majority of homeowners facing soaring school taxes in 2021 as a result of her reassessment.

Errors in Curran's assessment roll also resulted in multi-millionaires having their property tax bill erased. Mansions received tax bills for zero dollars in property taxes. While the reassessment was supposed to create equity, it did not. Neighboring homes built by the same developer pay different tax amounts regardless of being exactly the same.

It's clear that we need to scrap Curran's reassessment plan entirely and start fresh. As county executive, I will terminate Laura Curran's reassessment. Her phased-in tax hikes for the next three years will be immediately terminated by my administration. Instead, I will hire qualified professionals to run the Assessment Department and create a new, fair system while also cutting property taxes by over \$120 million.

Herald: The Covid-19 pandemic remains an overarching problem. What would you do to help ensure that residents are healthy life can to return to "normal?"

Curran: I worked around the clock with communities and health officials during the toughest days of the pandemic to keep residents healthy and informed. I visited small businesses constantly to keep a finger on the pulse of our local economy. I advocated for safe re-openings when it made sense to support our long-term economic health.

We were open and transparent

throughout the pandemic, pursuing an approach centered around education, outreach and accessibility. It is this approach that has earned us the ranking of highest vaccinated county in the state and second highest vaccinated among large counties nationally. Our 93.6 percent adult-vaccination-rate has allowed for a robust recovery – but we're not done.

As we recover, the county is reaching out to small business owners to get \$10,000 in individual grants to those that need them. County mobile vaccination teams are visiting businesses directly and providing vaccinations to staff. Paramedics are taking vaccines to the homebound. We will provide \$100 million in American Rescue Plan funds to some 400,000 households as \$375 direct cash payments, which will help families buy school supplies, cover utility bills and stimulate our local economy as we continue to come back stronger.

Blakeman: Covid-19 will be around for years to come, and we can never return to the days of a closed economy. We must adapt by fully reopening government to serve the people and welcome those in need of services. We must continue to offer free testing, vaccines and booster shots to people who want them. Schools must never close again. Big box stores should never be allowed to stay open while small businesses are shuttered. Restaurants should be allowed to keep outdoor dining and continue their indoor operations. As county executive, I'll keep my pledge to do these things while also ensuring we have a transparent reporting process related to Covid cases.



LET US KNOW

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to exeditor@liherald.com



NASSAU COUNTY CLERK

Maureen O'Connell Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 70

Hometown: East Williston

Career: County clerk, former nurse

Political experience: Nassau County clerk, 2006-present; New York state assemblywoman, 1998-2005; trustee and deputy mayor, Village of East Williston, 1991-98

On the issues:

Maureen O'Connell said her goal is to continue to expand on the many steps taken to improve the office since she was first elected in 2005, and to ensure that it operates effectively and efficiently. She and her staff



worked with military veterans to protect them from data breaches through the years. She said she has also found ways to get the community involved by extending office hours, creating outreach programs and educating constituents on what the clerk's office provides.

have worked to process more than a million backlogged records and implemented an electronic filing process that converts paper land records to a digital format to ensure they remain safe for the future, and she said she hoped to continue to serve residents of all ages in the community by helping them to learn about the benefits of the clerk's office.

O'Connell and her staff have also implemented security measures to protect residents from scams and identity theft, and have

Justin Brown Challenger

Party: Democratic

Age: 30

Hometown: Baldwin

Career: Health-care administrator

Political experience: Served on the Uniondale Board of Education for the past three years

On the issues:

Justin Brown said he has long been passionate about helping people and being an advocate for residents. He intends to make the office more innovative with technology so that residents could receive documents and enjoy greater accessibility without having to visit the office in person and imple-



menting a modern system that his office would have full control over online.

Brown said he would also ensure that the clerk's office could engage with the communities by providing more education and collaborating with key stakeholders in all towns to create a dialogue so that residents can take full advantage of the county clerk's resources and benefits.

**RE-ELECT
Nassau County Legislator**

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

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- Passionate About Protecting Our Environment • Devoted to Our Children & Seniors
- Committed to Our Communities

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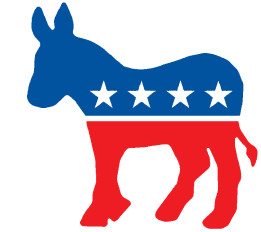
- Laborers' Int'l Union of North America • Long Island Federation of Labor, AFL-CIO • Nassau County Detectives' Association Inc.
- Nassau County PBA • Nassau County Sheriff's Correction Officers • Nassau County Superior Officers Association
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FB: Re-Elect Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton
IG: deliaderiggiwhitton

Paid for by Friends of Delia.

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT

ELECTION '21



OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR GENERAL ELECTION
November 2, 2021
NASSAU COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS

SEA CLIFF

INSTRUCTIONS

To vote for a candidate whose name is not printed on the ballot, mark the oval to the left of 'write-in' and print the name clearly, staying within the box. Any mark or writing outside the spaces provided for voting may void the entire ballot. You have a right to a replacement ballot. If you make a mistake or want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot. The number of choices is listed for each contest. Do not mark the ballot for more candidates than allowed. If you do, your vote in that contest will not count. Instructions for Voting on Questions and Proposals
 To vote on a question or proposal, mark the oval to the left of your choice. If you make a mistake, or want to change your vote, call the Board of Elections at (516) 571-2411 for instructions on how to obtain a new ballot.

INSTRUCTIONS

Para votar un candidato cuyo nombre no está en la papeleta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda del 'write-in' y escriba el nombre claramente en la casilla. Cualquier otra marca, o escritura fuera de los espacios proporcionados para votar, puede anular toda la papeleta. Usted tiene el derecho a una papeleta de reemplazo. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame a la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta. El número de opciones está listado para cada elección. No marque mas candidatos de lo permitidos. Si lo haces, su voto en esa elección no sera contado.
 Instrucciones para la votación de preguntas y propuestas Para votar sobre una pregunta o sobre una propuesta, marque el óvalo a la izquierda de su preferencia. Si comete un error o quiere cambiar su voto, llame a la Junta De Elecciones al (516) 571-1245 para instrucciones sobre cómo obtener una nueva papeleta.

This is not an actual ballot, but a composite of several sample ballots so as to reflect all the districts within the communities covered by your edition of the Herald. Complete reporting on candidates running in districts covered by the Herald – as well as the full text of our endorsements in each race – may be found at LIHerald.com under the Elections '20 tab.
 For election results after the polls close Tuesday night, go to LIHerald.com

Office	Justice of the Supreme Court (Vote for up to eight) Juez de la Corte Suprema (Vote hasta por ocho)								County Executive (Vote for one) Ejecutivo del Condado (Vote por uno)	District Attorney (Vote for one) Fiscal del Distrito (Vote por uno)	County Comptroller (Vote for one) Controlador del Condado (Vote por uno)	County Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario del Condado (Vote por uno)	Family Court Judge (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Familia (Vote por uno)	District Court Judge District 4 (Vote for one) Juez de la Corte de Distrito Distrito 4 (Vote por uno)	Oyster Bay Supervisor (Vote for one) Supervisor (Vote por uno)	Oyster Bay Councilmember (Vote for up to three) Concejal (Vote hasta por tres)			Oyster Bay Town Clerk (Vote for one) Secretario Municipal (Vote por uno)	County Legislator District 11 (Vote for one) Legislador del Condado Distrito 11 (Vote por uno)
Democratic	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapracione	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran	<input type="radio"/> 10 Todd D. Kaminsky	<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Joseph Girardi	<input type="radio"/> 15 Amanda R. Field	<input type="radio"/> 16 Gurpreet Kaur	<input type="radio"/> 17 Lisa M. Reinhardt	<input type="radio"/> 18 Reema Rasool	<input type="radio"/> 19 Carla F. Hoene	<input type="radio"/> 22 Delia M. DeRiggi Whitton
Republican	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapracione	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Bruce A. Blakeman	<input type="radio"/> 10 Anne T. Donnelly	<input type="radio"/> 11 Elaine R. Phillips	<input type="radio"/> 12 Maureen C. O'Connell	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Joseph Girardi	<input type="radio"/> 15 Joseph S. Saladino	<input type="radio"/> 16 Michele M. Johnson	<input type="radio"/> 17 Louis B. Imbroto	<input type="radio"/> 18 Thomas P. Hand	<input type="radio"/> 19 Richard L. LaMarca	<input type="radio"/> 22 Meagan M. McCarty
Conservative	<input type="radio"/> 1 Timothy S. Driscoll	<input type="radio"/> 2 Susan B. Heckman	<input type="radio"/> 3 Vito M. DeStefano	<input type="radio"/> 4 Christopher Modelewski	<input type="radio"/> 5 Conrad D. Singer	<input type="radio"/> 6 Danielle M. Peterson	<input type="radio"/> 7 Eileen Daly Sapracione	<input type="radio"/> 8 Elizabeth Fox-McDonough	<input type="radio"/> 9 Bruce A. Blakeman	<input type="radio"/> 10 Anne T. Donnelly	<input type="radio"/> 11 Elaine R. Phillips	<input type="radio"/> 12 Maureen C. O'Connell	<input type="radio"/> 13 Darlene D. Harris	<input type="radio"/> 14 Joseph Girardi	<input type="radio"/> 15 Joseph S. Saladino	<input type="radio"/> 16 Michele M. Johnson	<input type="radio"/> 17 Louis B. Imbroto	<input type="radio"/> 18 Thomas P. Hand	<input type="radio"/> 19 Richard L. LaMarca	<input type="radio"/> 22 Delia M. DeRiggi Whitton
Working Families											<input type="radio"/> 11 Ryan E. Cronin	<input type="radio"/> 12 Justin R. Brown		<input type="radio"/> 15 Amanda R. Field	<input type="radio"/> 16 Gurpreet Kaur	<input type="radio"/> 17 Lisa M. Reinhardt	<input type="radio"/> 18 Reema Rasool	<input type="radio"/> 19 Carla F. Hoene		
Common Sense								<input type="radio"/> 9 Laura Curran												
Write-in	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

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PULL OUT

SAMPLE ELECTION BALLOT COURTESY OF THE HERALD COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS

PULL OUT

OB TOWN BOARD



Tom Hand
Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 61

Hometown: Massapequa Park

Career: Executive at FedEx

Political experience: Oyster Bay Town Councilman since 2017

On the issues:

Hand believes it is most important to foster a stronger climate for economic growth and job creation; his top priority is to hold the line on property taxes, while ensuring federal grant funds are best used to put people back to work. He is working

with Supervisor Saladino on a plan to allocate over \$24 million in federal funds for a variety of causes, including attracting consumers to downtown businesses and for infrastructure projects that put people to work. Additionally, funds will be used to support not-for-profit organizations that serve those struggling with mental health and substance abuse.

Hand believes it is now critical for the town to help fill these storefronts by fostering a better economic climate and by making infrastructure improvements that attract people to the downtown. He is currently working to provide federal funds to the Chamber of Commerce to make those improvements.

Recently Hand, along with the rest of the town board, submitted a grant application to New York state for downtown revitalization funds that could be used to beautify storefronts.



Louis Imbroto
Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 37

Hometown: Bethpage

Career: Litigation attorney in private practice

Political experience: Town councilman since 2017

On the issues:

As chairman of the town's Quality of Life Taskforce, it was particularly important to Imbroto to make sure local business owners survive the impacts of the pandemic. He expedited the decision to allow for outdoor-dining opportu-

nities during the pandemic and urged the state to ease restrictions on local businesses.

Imbroto has worked to help residents re-enter the workforce or find gainful employment through the town's Workforce Career Center.

Imbroto wants to continue the board's efforts in water preservation and the protection of the harbor, as well as continue to sustain and maintain investments in parks, roadways and general infrastructure. He plans to proactively seek grant money for improvements to the hamlet, including areas around the waterfront and the area surrounding the train station.



Michele Johnson
Incumbent

Party: Republican

Age: 47

Hometown: Locust Valley

Career: Town councilwoman and attorney

Political experience: Town councilwoman since 2013

On the issues:

Johnson joined with restaurant owners in the hamlet to urge the state to allow them to reopen and she worked to extend outdoor dining opportunities for those local businesses.

Johnson works with her colleagues to bring greater

awareness to the town's Workforce Career Center, which assists both those seeking employment and employers to find meaningful employment. The center offers hundreds of potential courses free of charge to residents seeking employment opportunities, as well as resume services.

One of the issues most important to Johnson is the preservation of Oyster Bay's water quality and continued enhancement of the harbor. She initiated the construction of the shellfish hatchery at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park a few years ago, which initially resulted in the growth of a few hundred thousand baby oysters and clams and have now expanded to the seeding of more than 10 million clams and oysters this year alone. Johnson plans to expand the hatchery to even further efforts of increasing water quality.



Nicky Kaur
Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 52

Hometown: Hicksville

Career: Corporate executive

Political experience: None

On the issues:

Kaur believes the town needs to find ways to assist the community and local business for it to be able to run and sustain; the board should be able to assist them with the basics, PPE and whatever else is needed so that they don't need to spend their own capital

on necessities.

The two most important issues to Kaur are corruption and infrastructure. She believes corruption brings in inequality amongst people. To correct this, Kaur envisions a government that is for all people. Kaur thinks improvement in the infrastructure are needed, starting with the town's roads, which are "in a terrible state." She says [the town] lacks parking spaces at the train stations and is not clean. Kaur's belief is that the funds are there but are not utilized in the right way and this is the very reason corruption needs to be removed.



Reema Rasool
Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 42

Hometown: Brookville

Career: Business Consultant

Political experience: Activist and Organizer

On the issues:

Rasool said the biggest issue facing Oyster Bay is the lack of government transparency, and the town should communicate with residents more through email and the town website, cut down on town mailings and eliminate duplicate

mailings being sent to a single household.

She said she wants the town to create opportunities for more affordable homeownership without repeating the issues that led the federal government to sue the town for discrimination for its homeownership programs.

As an entrepreneur herself, Rasool personally knows the struggles that Covid brought to small business. The last few months Rasool has been the town's Main Street market meeting with local business owners to bring in new ideas to revitalize Main Street and bring in new customers. She also says the board needs to take a real look at the roads and parking downtown to make sure that the town's infrastructure can handle more outside business in a way that is fair to all.



Lisa Reinhardt
Challenger

Party: Democrat

Age: 51

Hometown: Hicksville

Career: Executive assistant

Political experience: None

On the issues:

Coming out of Covid, Reinhardt has noticed the need for more assistance for the small business owners of Oyster Bay. She says she would expand the resources currently offered by the town to include assistance in researching grants and any existing federal, state and regional programs for the

small business owners in the hamlet.

Reinhardt would also seek to create more events for small businesses, considering multiple events year-round. She believes these measures would result in more robust, direct assistance so owners can keep their businesses running without risking their families' basic needs.

Reinhardt says Infrastructure is a basic necessity that has not been prioritized in Oyster Bay and officials need to put residents' money where it's needed — toward paving the town's roads.

She believes the board should also look to attract people to the hamlet, whether for recreation or to shop, eat or open a business. For residents to navigate safely throughout Oyster Bay and to enable visitors to come to visit and vacation, Reinhardt says Oyster Bay needs safe, reliable roads to travel.



COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 11

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton Incumbent

Party: Democratic

Age: 53

Hometown: Glen Cove

Professional experience: Four terms as county legislator, former Glen Cove City councilwoman

On the issues:

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said that she believes a multi-pronged approach is needed to reverse the "brain drain" that continues to plague the region, and that it is essential to reduce the cost of living. She supports the county executive's proposal to reduce taxes by a total of \$150 million over the next four years. She has also joined forces with a



coalition of advocates and elected officials to free North Shore water customers from the exorbitant fees charged by New York American Water. She said that smart investments in infrastructure are essential for community-driven development in order to address the affordable housing issue. She helped secure the inclusion of tens of millions of dollars of investment in the county's capital plan focused on expanding and modernizing sewer infrastructure in Glen Cove and Sea Cliff and

fought to fulfill an aggressive road-repaving agenda for county roads in the district.

However, she said, the aquifer and drinking water must be protected from contamination. Recently, the county directed millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan funding toward the S.E.P.T.I.C. program, which provides up to \$20,000 in grants to property owners seeking to replace outdated or failing septic systems with state-of-the-art technology that greatly reduce dangerous nitrogen pollution.

She has been an advocate for local businesses and helped secure approval for dedicating funds to recovery grants for small businesses, low-interest loan programs, and other forms of crucial support to small businesses.

Meagan McCarty Challenger

Party: Republican

Age: 40

Hometown: Port Washington

Professional experience: Legislative aide, secretary-treasurer manufacturing business, mentor at Empowering Young Professionals of Long Island

On the issues:

Meagan McCarty said that, if elected, her first act would be to advocate for an elected assessor. She believes the current reassessment will cause taxes to skyrocket within the next five years, resulting in increased rents, the closure of businesses and people moving away. She said having an elected assessor who lived



in the county and who would be held accountable and transparent could help residents recover, and then focus on revitalizing downtown areas. She said she would propose a Quality of Life Task Force to help ensure public safety.

To address the housing crisis, she said would seek to advocate for allocating some of the state and federal emergency monies that Nassau will receive to bridge the gap between what long-term tenants have been paying and what the landlords

want to raise the rent to for an adjustment period. She also believes that programs available for first-time homebuyers need to be communicated more effectively.

McCarty said she would like to see Nassau be more business-friendly, and would work to incentivize companies that have existing parental leave/work from home/childcare programs and offer flexibility for families. She said she like to establish a relationship with business owners by holding quarterly small-business roundtables and seeking feedback from business owners, as well as their staffs and unions. She would bring their concerns to the Legislature and in turn, would disseminate Nassau County information to them in order to work together.

Includes Baxter Estates, Flower Hill, Glen Cove, Glenwood Landing, North Manorhaven, Port Washington, Roslyn, Roslyn Harbor, Sands Point, Sea Cliff.



COUNTY LEGISLATURE DISTRICT 18

Josh Lafazan Incumbent

Party: Independent, Democratic conservative

Age: 27

Professional experience: Corporate social responsibility adviser

Political experience: School board member, legislator

On the issues:

For Josh Lafazan, the issue of keeping young people on Long Island is personal. He says for years he has watched as his younger classmates and colleagues have left Nassau County for New York City or the South because of the lack of affordable housing options, effective public transportation and good, available jobs



in the county. Lafazan said he successfully fought for the building of 500 units of next-generation housing for young renters at the Nassau HUB, with an attractive walkable district and bus-rapid transit to the nearest train station. He met with Long Island Rail Road President Phil Eng and continues to push for a discounted monthly LIRR ticket for young commuters; because of the high cost, many young workers are opting to live in Manhattan and pay for a Metrocard as

opposed to riding the LIRR, he said. With a discounted LIRR ticket for young workers, Lafazan said he believes he could help make it more attractive and affordable for young people to live in Nassau and commute to Manhattan for work.

Lafazan helped secure millions of dollars in grants for small businesses to keep their employees on the job during and after the pandemic, along with helping connect students proficient in social media and online marketing with shop owners, and helped raise funds for those in need. Now, Lafazan says local government officials must continue to shift their focus to Covid-19 recovery.

Paolo Pironi Challenger

Party: Republican

Age: Unreported

Professional experience: Private sector businessman, home builder, volunteer firefighter

Political experience: Associate board member of the Association for a Better Long Island, member of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce

On the issues:

Paolo Pironi said he believes too many Long Island families and older adults are having their dreams destroyed by crushing property taxes and a broken assessment system that has forced people to sell



their homes and sacrifice their quality of life. Pironi said that, if elected, he would work to reform the broken property tax assessment system which increased property taxes for the majority of Nassau County homeowners. He would also work to help homeowners grieve their assessment levels and secure the property-tax exemptions they are entitled to under the law, including those for senior citizens, veterans and volunteer firefighters. He would also work to

bring reforms, greater transparency, openness and honesty to the county's assessment process, which he said has been riddled with problems that both frustrate and confuse residents.

Pironi believes in fiscally-conservative budgeting practices that mandate efficiency and limit spending. He also thinks that giving back to local communities is an important role for any business and government entity, and he has dedicated a great deal of his time toward raising charitable funds for the American Cancer Society, diabetes research and the families of those killed in the Sept. 11, 2001, World Trade Center attacks.

Includes Bayville, Brookville, East Hills, East Norwich, Glen Head, Laurel Hollow, Locust Valley, Muttontown, Old Brookville, Oyster Bay, Oyster Bay Cove, Upper Brookville, Syosset and others.

Donnelly, Kaminsky slug it out for D.A.

By JIM BERNSTEIN

jbernstein@liherald.com

The contest for Nassau County district attorney has been the most bitterly fought off all races this election season, with State Sen. Todd Kaminsky, the Democrat, and Anne Donnelly, the Republican, trading a slew of bighting accusations against each other, mostly centering on who is most responsible for setting prisoners free on the street to commit other crimes.

The accusations stem from Donnelly's attempts to paint Kaminsky as the legislator who wrote the state's Bail Reform Law, which gives and prohibits judges' discretion to assign bail in many felony and certain non-felony cases. Kaminsky voted for the bill, but did not write it.

Although the State Legislature amended the law in April 2020 to include a greater number of crimes for which bail could be assigned, the issue continues to dominate the campaign, and the ads continue to run on local TV stations. Donnelly points to her 30 years of working as a prosecutor in the Nassau D.A.'s office, heading different bureaus. Kaminsky notes that he served as a prosecutor in the U.S. attorney's office in Manhattan.

Herald: Nassau County has a growing immigrant population that often does not trust law enforcement. How would you improve that relationship?

Kaminsky: As district attorney, my office will have information available in every language, as well as community liaisons who do outreach in every part of Nassau County. And let me be clear: I will have a zero tolerance for hate crimes as district attorney. Hate crimes against the immigrant population have risen at troubling rates recently, and the trend must be addressed aggressively. It doesn't matter if you're Jewish, LGBTQ, Asian, Black or Muslim: You deserve to feel safe walking down the streets of your neighborhood. As district attorney, I will take a tough and aggressive approach to hold racists and other hate-mongers accountable in our community by instituting a zero-tolerance policy. I am proud to have the support of law enforcement, including the New York State Troopers and local Police Benevolent Association. They know my record. They know I will fight to protect all Long Islanders. Rebuilding trust doesn't just mean the prosecutor's office has to have a better relationship with communities—it also means trust in government and institutions overall has to improve by prosecuting corruption. Corruption has infested every level of government here in Nassau County. As a federal prosecutor, I worked on the highest-level corruption cases, successfully prosecuting both Democrats and Republicans who violated the public trust. Corruption will have no place to



Anne Donnelly

Party: Republican

Age: 56

Hometown: Garden City

Professional Background: Worked in the district attorney's office for more than three decades and serves as the deputy chief of the Organize Crime and Rackets Bureau. Spent time as the acting chief in the Public Corruption Bureau, senior trial assistant in the Rackets Bureau and as deputy chief of the Economic Crimes Bureau. She earned her law degree from Fordham University in 1989.

hide when I am district attorney.

Donnelly: I am committed to serving all residents of Nassau County in a fair and respectful manner. Part of that commitment consists of helping to ensure that people who have emigrated from other countries into the United States are welcomed into the communities in which they have chosen to settle. Outreach programs that feature governmental liaisons who speak the primary languages of members of our diverse community should be at the top of the priority list. Educational initiatives and literature in various languages are also needed to welcome residents and build trust. I am prepared to play a leadership role in this area.

Herald: Gangs are growing in Nassau and Suffolk. Aside from prosecuting those apprehended, what else can the district attorney's office do to stem the violence?

Kaminsky: As a federal prosecutor, I successfully took down gang leaders and the gun and drug traffickers who supplied them, cleaning up our streets and keeping dangerous weapons out of criminals' hands. Gang violence is a serious threat to our communities, and



Todd Kaminsky

Party: Democrat

Age: 43

Hometown: Long Beach

Professional Background: Member of New York State Senate representing the 9th district, based on South Shore since 2016. He previously worked as an assistant district attorney in the Queens County District Attorney's Office before joining the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York as an assistant U.S. attorney. Kaminsky was elected to the State Assembly, serving in that body from 2014 to 2016. He earned his law degree from New York University.

combating them will be a top priority of my office. Some of the worst gangs are international in scope and go beyond our state and even our country's borders. This means that having strong partnerships with federal law enforcement agencies is critical. As someone who worked as a federal prosecutor, I will coordinate with our federal partners closely to root out gang violence. Importantly, when it comes to gangs, we also cannot keep treating the symptoms—we must treat the underlying disease. We must establish trust in communities with gang violence and work with local organizations to identify bad actors and offer alternatives to crime. My office will be constantly working with schools and after-school programs to educate young people about the dangers of gangs, and investing in these programs so our young people are learning, partaking in constructive activities and do not choose to walk the path that gangs offer them.

Donnelly: Collaborating with schools, as well as municipal governments and non-for-profits, we can provide more opportunities for enrichment and socialization programs as viable alternatives to gangs. Safe activities and

good mentors are important components of attractive and positive choices for young people. I plan to explore the use of asset forfeiture funds to further programs of this type.

Herald: Our jails are often overcrowded and riddled with Covid-19 cases. What would you recommend to ease these conditions?

Kaminsky: The best way to address overcrowding, deliver swift justice for victims and lower crime is to fully fund our court system. There are federal funds available through the Department of Justice to help—and I will push the state to add more dollars to ensure justice is served. I will also make sure that programs with proven track records to turn around criminal behavior — especially for substance abuse — are funded to keep Nassau safe and to reduce the recidivism that floods our courts with cases.

Donnelly: The Nassau County jail is not overcrowded, and I am intimately aware of this fact, having served as the district attorney's liaison to the correctional center until recently. Indeed, the inmate population is at its lowest level in the past 25 years. What's more, the facility did an excellent job in containing and treating Covid. Unfortunately, the "cashless bail" law that was co-authored by my opponent has greatly limited the ability of judges to make incarceration decisions for individuals based upon the pertinent facts in each case.



LET US KNOW

News Brief items including awards, honors, promotions and other tidbits about local residents are welcome. Photographs may be emailed as well.

Deadline for submissions is noon Thursday, week prior to publication.

Send to exceditor@liherald.com

2021 JUDICIAL CANDIDATES

3rd District Court Judge

Lisa Saltzman

Running on the Democratic, Republican and Conservative party lines in the general election

Age: 55

Lives in: Great Neck

Education: Bachelor's from New York University, 1988; law degree from Yeshiva University in 1991

Legal career: Upon graduation, Saltzman began working as a trial attorney at the Legal Aid Society, where she stayed until 1997. She has worked as a supervising attorney with Queens Defenders since 1997, and an attorney at law in her private practice since 2010. Saltzman is also an adjunct professor of law at Seton Hall University, a position she has held since 2010.



David I. Levine

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 55

Lives in: Roslyn Heights

Education: Graduated from SUNY Binghamton in 1987 and earned his law degree from New York Law School in 1990.

Legal career: Judge Levine was appointed by the County Executive Laura Curran to the Nassau County District Court this past March.

Levine previously served as the associate justice for the Village of Manorhaven from November 2019 to March 2021.

Levine was also a member of the Town of North Hempstead Board of Zoning and Appeals from January 2012 to March 2021.

Prior to ascending to the District Court bench, he maintained a private practice in Mineola from 1997 to March 2021 and was an assistant district attorney in Queens from 1990 to 1997.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

William Hohausser

Democratic, Republican, Conservative

Age: 62

Lives in: xxxxx

Education: Earned bachelor's degree from SUNY Binghamton in 1981 and his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1984.

Legal career: Hohausser served as counsel and the executive director for Morgan Stanley Smith Barney from 1987 to 2015. While there, his areas of practice included securities, corporate, employment, RICO and real estate law as well as Uniform Commercial Code and tort claims.

PHOTO NOT AVAILABLE

Family Court Judge Candidate

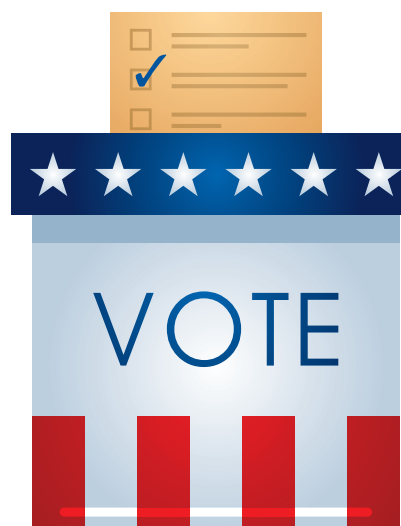
Darlene D. Harris

Age: 55

Hometown: Uniondale

Education: University of Pennsylvania; Hofstra University

Legal career: District Court judge since January 2015, practiced law in family court for 13 years, former Nassau County legislator.



2nd District Court Judge

Vincent T. Muscarella

Vincent T. Muscarella, a Republican, is running unopposed for the 2nd District Court. He was elected to the first session of the Nassau County Legislature on Nov. 5, 1995. He represents the 8th Legislative District, which encompasses Franklin Square, Floral Park, Bellerose, Bellerose Terrace, West Hempstead and portions of Elmont, New Hyde Park and Stewart Manor.



Muscarella was born in Nassau County in 1954 and is a life-long resident of the county. After completing his undergraduate studies at Bowdoin College in Maine, he attended St. John's Law School and received his J.D. in 1979. Muscarella is a partner in the law firm of Muscarella and Tomasone and a member of the Nassau County, New York State, and Florida Bar Associations. He is admitted to practice in the Federal District Courts for the Eastern and Southern Districts.

ELECTION DAY

NOVEMBER 2, 2021

STATE SUPREME COURT JUSTICE

Danielle Peterson

Party: Republican **Age:** 46

Education: Peterson earned her bachelor's from the University of Delaware in 1997 and a J.D. from Hofstra University on 2000.

Legal career: Peterson began her legal career as an attorney in a private practice in 2001. In 2010, she became the principal law clerk to the Hon. Anthony L. Parga of the Nassau County Supreme Court and was elected justice in 2015.

Elizabeth Fox McDonough

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 59

Education: Earned bachelor's from St. John's University in 1984 and J.D. St. John's University in 1987.

Legal career: From 1987 to 1997, served as an assistant district attorney in Queens. From 1997 to 2001, served as the principal law clerk to Justice Arthur Cooperman in the Criminal Term of the Queens County Supreme Court.

Joseph Girardi

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 62

Education: Graduated with Highest Honors from SUNY Oneonta in 1981 with a dual major of U.S. history and political science. Graduated from Georgetown Law Center in 1984 and was a Criminal Justice Clinic participant.

Legal career: From 1984 to 1988, served as an assistant district attorney in Queens. From 1988 to 2015, he was an attorney in private practice specializing in criminal cases.

Eileen Daly-Sapraicone

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 57

Education: Bachelor's from St. John's University in 1991; law degree from City University of New York Law School in 1995.

Legal career: Daly-Sapraicone began her legal career in 1995 as an assistant district attorney Queens, where she worked for six years. Daly-Sapraicone served as a special counsel in the special commissioner of investigation for the New York City School District.

Susan B. Heckman

Party: Democratic, Republican and Conservative **Age:** 41

Education: Earned bachelor's in history and political science from Bucknell University in 2002; received law degree from Villanova University School of Law in 2005.

Legal career: From 2007 to 2010, served as a defense attorney for the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. Since 2012, Heckman has served as the principal law secretary to Suffolk Supreme Court Justice John B. Collins.

Timothy S. Driscoll

Party: Democratic, Conservative, Republican **Age:** 54

Education: Bachelor's Hofstra University, 1988; law degree, Harvard Law School, 1991.

Legal career: After graduating from law school, Driscoll began a year-long clerkship with the Hon. Joseph M. McLaughlin of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the second circuit. Upon completion of his clerkship, he entered into private practice. Driscoll left the private sector in 1996 to join the Nassau district attorney's office.

Vito DeStefano

Party: Democratic, Republican, Conservative **Age:** 54

Education: Wagner College; Brooklyn Law School.

Legal career: Elected to the New York State Supreme Court in 2007 and is presiding in the Commercial Division and over the Tax Certiorari part of the court in Nassau County. He was a Nassau County District Court judge from 2004 through 2007. Was appointed to the New York State's Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics.

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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy LICA

LICA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Marc Herbst and Sea Cliff Trustee James Versocki

Versocki discusses LI infrastructure

The Long Island Contractors' Association held its legislative breakfast last month. The attendees included Sea Cliff Trustee James Versocki, State Senator Jim Gaughran, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, as well as various Nassau and Suffolk County legislators, town

councilmembers and supervisors and LICA Executive Director Marc Herbst. The group discussed infrastructure priorities on Long Island, and featured Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon and Senator Tim Kennedy.

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Earthly delights

Dear Great Book Guru,
This weekend we were at a fabulous family wedding. The bride and groom, Shannon and Nick, had a picture-perfect wedding day and as so happens when our family gets together, the conversation turned to books. Many of the cousins were excited about a new Booker Prize nominee that was a combination of family drama and science fiction. Are you familiar with it?
—Happy Wedding Guest



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

ling his anger, especially towards classmates. When school authorities suggest medication, Theo refuses and consults with a friend who suggests an experimental neurofeedback therapy. Robin's parents had earlier been part of an experiment that mapped their emotions in great detail. Soon we realize Robin is being linked to his mother's brain patterns.

The story line is interspersed with descriptions of planets throughout the galaxy where life may have existed in ways similar to ours — all with differing outcomes. What the outcome of life on planet earth will be is the underlying theme of this novel. A challenging but rewarding read. Highly recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.

Dear Happy Wedding Guest,
The book you are searching for is Richard Powers' "Bewilderment," and a wonderful recommendation it is. Set in the near future, the story follows a father and son on an amazing journey. The father, Theo Byrne, is an astrobiologist, recently widowed; the son is Robin, a third grader who is grieving his mother's death. Robin is a sensitive, gifted artist and lover of nature, who has difficulty control-



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UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

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12 Months, 0; Actual No. Copies of Single Issue Published Nearest to Filing Date, 0.
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17. Signature and Title of Editor, Publisher, Business Manager, or Owner: Stuart Richner, Owner; Date: October 1, 2020. I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material information requested on the form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties). 1150049

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW 1-2021
SUBJECT TO PERMISSIVE REFERENDUM
INC. VILLAGE OF BROOKVILLE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Brookville, Nassau County, New York, at a meeting of said Board duly called and held on October 19, 2021, at which a quorum was present and voting, after due notice, adopted Local law 1-2021 as follows:
A local law adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law §131 opting out of licensing and establishing retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within the Village of Brookville.
BE IT ENACTED by the Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Brookville as follows:
SECTION 1. Legislative Intent
It is the intent of this local law to opt the Village of Brookville out of hosting retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments within its boundaries.
SECTION 2. Authority
This local law is adopted pursuant to Cannabis Law §131, which expressly authorizes villages to opt-out of allowing retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption

establishments to locate and operate within their boundaries.
SECTION 3. Local Cannabis Retail Dispensary and/or On-Site Consumption Opt-Out
The Board of Trustees of the Village of Brookville, County of Nassau, hereby opts-out of allowing retail cannabis dispensaries and/or on-site cannabis consumption establishments from locating and operating within the boundaries of the Village of Brookville.
SECTION 4. Severability
If a court determines that any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance is invalid or unconstitutional, the court's order or judgment shall not affect, impair, or invalidate the remainder of this local law, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this local law or in its application to the person, individual, firm or corporation or circumstance, directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or order shall be rendered.
SECTION 5. Effective date
This local law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State. Pursuant to Cannabis Law §131, this local law is subject to a permissive referendum

and thus may not be filed with the Secretary of State until the applicable time period has elapsed to file a petition or a referendum has been conducted approving this local law.
128171

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LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a public hearing will be held as to the following matter:
Agency: Planning Board, Village of Sea Cliff
Date: November 10, 2021
Time: 7:00 pm
Place: Village Hall, 300 Sea Cliff Avenue, Sea Cliff, New York
Subject: Application of John Koutsoyiannis and Maria N. Strouzas, 19 Glen Avenue, Sea Cliff, New York, for approval pursuant to Chapter 64 to install a six (6) foot high PVC fence. Premises are designated as Section 21, Block 99, Lot 162 on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map.
Application of PMG Northeast, LLC c/o Blue Hills Fuels LLC, 700 Glen Cove Avenue, Sea Cliff, New York, for (a) site plan approval pursuant to Village Code Chapter 107 to permit an elevated

parking area on the northern side of the premises, and (b) a determination of required minimum on-site parking, in accordance with Village Code §138-1002(5). Premises are designated as Section 21, Block M, Lots 79-85 on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map.
At the said time and place, all interested persons may be heard with respect to the foregoing matters. All relevant documents may be inspected at the office of the Village Clerk, Village Hall, 300 Sea Cliff Avenue, Sea Cliff, New York, during regular business hours.
Any person having a disability which would inhibit attendance at, or participation in, the hearing should notify the Village Clerk at least three business days prior to the hearing, so that reasonable efforts may be made to facilitate such attendance and participation.
Dated: October 26, 2021
BY ORDER OF THE PLANNING BOARD
128170

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HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

Re-elect Laura Curran Nassau County executive

Just over two years into Laura Curran's first term as county executive, the world was roiled by the coronavirus pandemic. Its continuing impact on life might have consumed lesser elected officials, but not Curran.

The county executive, a Democrat, took control and, following the fact-based advice of health officials, she worked to keep residents informed through her Covid-related news briefings that took place in many communities across the county.

In large part because of her outstanding pandemic response, the Herald enthusiastically endorses Curran for a second term as county executive. Through a phased-in reopening of businesses, houses of worship and schools, Curran and her administration kept a keen eye on the infection numbers and aimed to ensure the health and safety of everyone in the county. When vaccinations were rolled out, Nassau officials from Curran on down doubled down on the need to vaccinate. As of press time, the county had a 94 percent vaccination rate for adults with at least one dose — the highest in New York state.

Curran used federal money to fund the Boost Nassau program, which began last summer to offer grants to businesses. Also, some 400,000 county households will receive a one-time \$375 direct payment for residents

to use as they wish, but which Curran is encouraging people to spend locally to help support pandemic-ravaged businesses.

Her Republican challenger, Hempstead Town Councilman Bruce Blakeman, has been part of the town's battle against Covid-19, which has included a mobile vaccination unit and an array of programs and services that have assisted residents through the pandemic, all paid for with federal dollars. We also commend Blakeman for his role at the town level in easing restrictions for restaurants to create outdoor dining spaces to help them survive the pandemic.

Financially, Curran has navigated the county through the past two budgets, 2019 and 2020, and has delivered balanced fiscal plans but has not raised county taxes since being elected. The current budget battle is

still playing out. Her proposed \$70 million tax cut appears sounder than the Republican plan for a \$120 million cut that Blakeman has campaigned on.

A recurring issue that vexes residents is the way homes are assessed across the county. Reassessment has long been thought of as the third rail of Nassau politics, but Curran showed courage in taking on an issue that made so many other elected leaders quiver. The reassessment process was imperfect, with thousands of mistakes. The system is, however, considerably more accurate now

for hundreds of thousands of homes.

Blakeman, for all his years in public office, which include two stints as a town councilman and his time in the legislature, where he served as presiding officer, was unable to offer concrete suggestions for fixing the reassessment. The best plan he offered was to take a look under the hood, so to speak, assemble a panel of experts and appoint a special master to investigate what was done and how it could be repaired. When running for the county's highest office, a candidate needs to offer more than that. During the turmoil of the past couple of years, Curran, in partnership with Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, kept a lid on crime in the county. The work was recognized nationally by U.S. News & World Report, which named Nassau the safest community in the country based on several metrics. Both candidates support upgrading Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow, and Curran said that she has asked the federal government for \$200 million to enhance the hospital's infrastructure. Blakeman said he would aim to increase its revenue by focusing on specialties such as cardiac surgery. Both are good ideas, especially if the federal money is received.

We believe Curran's outstanding work in protecting her constituents throughout her first term — particularly during the pandemic — coupled with her willingness and ability to take on critical issues like reassessment have earned her another four years. We urge voters to re-elect her Tuesday.

HERALD Endorsement



Laura Curran

Vote for O'Connell for county clerk

Though we found both candidates in the Nassau County clerk race to be strong, we see no reason to unseat

Maureen O'Connell after all she has accomplished in the past 16 years.

O'Connell, a registered nurse from East Williston and a Republican, was first elected clerk in 2005, and re-elected in 2009, 2013 and 2017 — for good reason. She has taken many steps in that time to improve the office and ensure that it operates effectively and efficiently. She and her staff have worked to process more than a million backlogged records, and implemented an electronic filing process that converts paper land

records to a digital format to ensure they remain safe in the future.

O'Connell and her staff also implemented security measures to protect residents from scams and identity theft, and have worked with military veterans to protect them from data breaches. She has extended office hours and created outreach programs to educate constituents about services the clerk's office provides.

Her opponent, Justin Brown, a Democrat from Baldwin, offered many solid ideas for improving the office moving forward, and as a health care administrator for Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Center and a former Uniondale Board

of Education trustee, he has shown proven leadership skills.

Brown's ideas include making the clerk's office more technologically efficient, so residents can receive documents without having to appear in person; implementing a modern, user-friendly online system that the office would have full control over; and offering greater community outreach to residents and constituents to show them how to maximize the office's services. Brown is just 30 years old, we believe there is a strong future in politics for him, and encourage him to seek elected office in years to come.

For now, though, O'Connell has the county clerk's office humming along, and has instituted a great deal of positive change there in the past 16 years. We encourage voters to re-elect her.

HERALD Endorsement



Maureen O'Connell

HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

Keep the incumbents on the Oyster Bay Town Board

Tom Hand, Louis Imbroto and Michele Johnson should be re-elected to Oyster Bay's town board for their continual efforts to assist residents and business-

es.

The Democratic challengers are very passionate about their desire to serve and were able to voice clearly what they believe is wrong with town government, but unable to offer much in the way of suggestions on how to make things right.

Hand, who was elected in 2017, was the chairman of the Massapequa Water District Board of Water Commissioners and on the executive board of the Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners Association.

We need his expertise to protect the waterways.

He'd like to see the addition of exercise equipment at Centre Island Beach and expansion of food operations at Theodore Roosevelt Park. And Hand wants to improve transparency by announcing projects before they begin. A lack of transparency is something that resi-

dents have complained about for years.

Johnson grew up in the town and now lives in Locust Valley. She became involved in government to give back, she said, and can often

She would also like to use The Farm, the 26-acre Littauer estate in Oyster Bay Cove that the town bought more than a decade ago. Johnson would like to see walking tours there so

people could enjoy the ponds, pastures and gardens.

Louis Imbroto chairs the Quality of Life Task Force. Two dozen zombie homes have been eliminated under his watch, and he created a zombie home registry. Plywood was used to board up abandoned houses, but under Imbroto, polycarbonate, which is like plexiglass, must be used instead.

He'd like to see an administrative court established at Town Hall to handle code enforcement. Keeping it

inhouse would be more efficient and not depend on "the whims of the court," he said.

We believe the three Republican incumbents have solid ideas that would benefit the Town of Oyster Bay for years to come. Vote for them on Nov. 2.

HERALD Endorsement



Tom Hand

HERALD Endorsement



Michele Johnson

HERALD Endorsement



Lou Imbroto

be found at events throughout the area. But she isn't there to speak as a councilwoman. She wants to enjoy what is taking place, never forgetting that the hamlet is her hometown.

Quality of life is important to her. She wants to target funds to resurface Fireman's Field, which residents have complained about for many years.

Re-elect Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino

The Town of Oyster Bay is in better shape than it has been for many years, and there are a number of reasons. Under Supervisor Joseph Saladino, the town is no longer in financial trouble, and the budget for 2022 will keep town spending, which has increased every year, flat. Additionally, residents will not see a tax increase.

During the coronavirus pandemic, the town never stopped operating. For his ability to get the job done in good times and bad, we endorse Saladino for supervisor.

His challenger, Democrat Amanda Field, had many good ideas. Although she is Plainview's water commissioner, she doesn't have the type of experience needed to run a town as large as Oyster Bay, however.

Saladino was able to reduce the town's workforce, gleaning \$10 million in savings. But at the same time, other non-union employees were promoted, which the supervisor gave as justification for raises that were given. We agree with his decision to allow part-time sanitation workers to become full-time so they could benefit from health care coverage.

But his proposed budget includes roughly \$93 million for salaries. We believe Saladino should do more to reduce money spent on salaries, per-

haps lowering the salaries of some of the highest earners, instead of encouraging town workers to take an early retirement. But cutting \$10 million is a good place to start.

Hicksville residents complain that their roads have not been paved. Saladino said 400 roads have been in 2021. His budget allocates \$25 million a year for road restoration, which is badly needed. Even so, we encourage Saladino to have his road crews do more for Hicksville.

One of the biggest improvements in the town is Saladino's creation of a fish hatchery for oysters and clams. In the past, the town donated 200,000 oyster and clam seeds annually, but with the hatchery, the number has been increased to 2 million. This will improve the water quality in Oyster Bay and repopulate the harbor with oysters and clams, which have decreased over the years. Saladino and his administration are also planning for the expansion of the North Shore

HERALD Endorsement



Joseph Saladino

shellfish hatchery to the South Shore, a plan that we support. And Saladino's commitment to adopt a bay management plan is also a step in the right direction.

Perhaps Saladino's biggest accomplishment is the upgrading of the town's credit rating. He has received six bond-rating increases, including recognition by Moody's Financial Services and Standard and Poor's Global Ratings with an A3 and A+ rating, respectively. And in 2020, the town was removed from the stress monitoring list by the New York state comptroller's office; in 2021, it remained off the list. A solid credit rating means lower rates when bonding, which will benefit taxpayers.

Several small businesses closed during the pandemic, leaving behind empty storefronts in the town. We credit Saladino with the recent surge in small businesses that are opening, and there are other businesses that will open after permits are processed.

The Town of Oyster Bay is experiencing a resurgence, which we credit in large part to the steady leadership of Joseph Saladino. Vote for him Nov. 2.

HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

Cast your ballot for Delia DeRiggi-Whitton in L.D. 11

Since 2012, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton has actively taken on causes in Nassau County's 11th Legislative District, and has made important changes. One of her priorities has been to protect the Long Island Sound, and she has done that by prioritizing the installation of a sewer line in Sea Cliff, advocating for it to be connected to the county's sewer system and helping to transition more residents off cesspools.

DeRiggi-Whitton advocated for the county to direct millions of dollars in American Rescue Plan funding toward the SEPTIC program, which provides \$20,000 grants to property owners seeking to replace outdated or failing septic systems with state-of-

HERALD Endorsement



Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Nassau program, and helped them apply for assistance. This has helped businesses in Glen Cove and Sea Cliff remain open despite the diffi-

the-art models that greatly reduce nitrogen pollution.

In part because of her environmental advocacy, we are endorsing DeRiggi-Whitton, a Democrat.

Throughout the pandemic, DeRiggi-Whitton has also been a visible leader, advocating for dedicating tens of millions of dollars to recovery grants for small businesses, low-interest loan programs and other forms of support for small businesses. She went door to door to inform small business owners about the Restaurant Recovery Grant and the Boost

cult economy.

She also made determining the source of pollution at Sea Cliff's Crescent Beach a priority, and though the beach has remained closed for swimming since 2009, the source has been identified, and the responsible homeowners are in the process of securing advanced filtering systems.

While DeRiggi-Whitton's opponent, Meagan McCarty, has some good ideas and appears to truly care about finding ways to make North Shore communities more affordable, we believe that DeRiggi-Whitton's track record makes her the best candidate for the job. Throughout her five terms as a legislator, she has built relationships on both sides of the aisle, and while she has done much for her hometown of Glen Cove, she also pushes for legislation that has benefits countywide, and she gets the job done.

Re-elect DeRiggi-Whitton next Tuesday.

Vote for Josh Lafazan in the 18th Legislative District

At 23 years old, Josh Lafazan became Nassau County's youngest legislator in 2017. He is now in his second term, representing the North Shore's 18th Legislative District.

A registered Independent who caucuses with the Democrats in the Legislature, Lafazan brings innovative ideas and a forward-thinking approach to crafting legislation. He has written 12 laws that have been passed in the past four years.

Lafazan has solid, well-constructed plans to address the county's housing crisis, which is deterring younger generations from staying on Long Island. He wants to focus on providing affordable housing in Nassau's downtowns, centered on Long Island Rail Road stations.

One of his top legislative priorities, he said, is fighting the heroin and opioid epidemic. Timothy's Law, which established a 24-hour hotline for substance-abuse intervention, was introduced by Lafazan and passed in August 2018. Related legis-

HERALD Endorsement



Josh Lafazan

Ending Veteran Homelessness, which guides projects meant to reduce the number of veterans who are housing insecure in the region.

In addition to public service, Lafazan advises Northwell Health on implementing policies and

initiatives to best care for employees, protect the environment and assist communities through strategic partnerships.

Lafazan also introduced the Dignity For Our Heroes package, signed into law in April 2019, which designated veterans as a protected class under the county's Human Rights Law, in addition to creating the Nassau Commission on

initiatives to best care for employees, protect the environment and assist communities through strategic partnerships.

He appears to genuinely enjoy working to improve his constituents' lives, which he describes as "the best job on earth." As an elected leader who knocks on residents' doors every year, Lafazan strives to foster a working relationship with the people of his district in order to best address their concerns.

We liked Lafazan's Republican opponent, Paolo Pironi, who is active in his local chamber of commerce and civic affairs throughout Long Island. We believe he is sincere in his desire to do good for the community and appreciate his fervent take on the issues. We do not see any reason, however, to unseat Lafazan.

He has the passion and determination needed to follow through on campaign promises and effect positive change. We urge residents of the 18th District to re-elect him on Tuesday.

LETTERS

Pay attention to school elections

To the Editor:

Jerry Romano and I came together over a common interest, to gain an understanding of why North Shore Schools spend so much more than nearby communities. What we learned as we investigated the finances was enlightening, especially with how our school elections are manipulated.

The North Shore Teacher Union President asked for and received from the North Shore School administration the Parents Directory (names and phone numbers) for all families with children enrolled in the

North Shore School District. "Reason: Union advocacy for the vote." (When we asked for the Parents Directory the district lawyers told us it was a violation of federal and state privacy laws). In 2020, voters received on the same day their mail-in ballots and an advocacy post card from the Teachers Union asking voters to support the unions candidates and to vote yes on the budget, delivered on the same day, mailed from the same Garden City post office! North Shore's Superintendent sent multiple "targeted" emails to parents of children in school reminding them vote, those communications targeted certain voters and not the full electorate. Board of Education members accepted financial sup-

port for their campaigns from the North Shore Teachers Union. Mail-in ballots were examined prior to date of the closing of the election and poll lists were generated of residents who already voted. The Board of Education President, board candidates and teachers union president requested and received the names of those who had already voted in the election. We've heard that these lists are used to call people who haven't voted and are likely to vote yes.

We thought we had enough solid information to file a legal action with the NYS Commissioner of Education to overturn the school budget vote and trustee election. We didn't. There was no violation of Education Law and not being lawyers, we have a

lot to learn about filing legal actions. The actions of the school district and teachers union may have been legal, but are they ethical? We lost and this community lost too, we deserve to have a school board that works for the entire community and school elections that are fair and don't favor one group of residents over another. Pay attention to upcoming school elections and get out and vote!

PAUL PUSKULDJIAN,
Glen Head

JERRY ROMANO,
Sea Cliff

HERALD ENDORSEMENTS

For Nassau County district attorney, Todd Kaminsky

The most hard-fought, nastiest race in Nassau County this election season has been the contest for district attorney, pitting Democratic State Sen. Todd Kaminsky against Republican Anne Donnelly. Both have run scathing television ads, with Donnelly accusing Kaminsky of freeing prisoners under the state's new bail-reform law, and Kaminsky accusing Donnelly of botching a murder trial leading to a mistrial.

But the bad-mouthing began with the Republicans, who see the D.A.'s race as their best chance to capture a powerful seat in county government and were first to air the ads. In our view, Kaminsky is the better candidate.

The State Legislature passed a bail-reform measure in 2019, restricting the use of cash bail and pre-trial detention in misdemeanor and nonviolent felony cases. It also gave judges discretion to assign bail in almost all violent felony cases and certain nonviolent cases, such as witness tampering. The law was amended in 2020, and Kaminsky voted for the amended law, which gives judges bail discretion in a greater number of cases.

In her TV ads, Donnelly accused Kaminsky of *writing* the bail-reform bill. That was untrue. Kaminsky voted for it, but was not its author.

This issue was central to the campaign for D.A. That's a shame, because there are other issues that demanded the attention of both candidates. Kaminsky, while having to defend himself against the false allegations, did bring up other matters, including the need for stronger gun control legislation and a

woman's right to choose in the growing debate over abortion.

Kaminsky has proven himself to be an able state senator, particularly when it comes to the environment, an issue of great importance to his South Shore constituency. He is chairman of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, and authored the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, an aggressive climate-change program that puts New York on the road to carbon neutrality and a green-energy economy. He has been in the forefront of a fight to regulate carcinogenic contaminants in Long Island's water supply, and has passed legislation banning products containing toxic substances. He secured billions of dollars for clean-water systems.

While Kaminsky's environmental record is enviable, the question is, does this make a good prosecutor? We believe his passion for issues demonstrates his hunger to do good work through public office, and his ability to work effectively as an elected leader. Kaminsky has pledged to use the bully pulpit of the D.A.'s office to take on big-picture law-enforcement issues, and he no doubt can.

Donnelly argues that she is the law-enforcement professional. She has been a prosecutor in the county D.A.'s office for 32 years, and served as deputy chief of the Organized Crime and Rackets Bureau.

Certainly, such service is admirable.

Kaminsky, who became a state senator in 2016, worked as an assistant district attorney in the Queens D.A.'s office before joining the U.S. attorney's office for the Eastern District of New York. He prosecuted elected officials who used taxpayer dollars to support their lifestyles, including former State Senate Majority Leader Pedro Espada Jr., State Assemblyman Jimmy Meng and Michael Grimm, a member of Congress.

Kaminsky offered some fresh ideas to improve the D.A.'s office. He promised to crack down on hate crimes at a time when anti-Semitic and racist acts are rising in New York. He also promised to root out corruption in Nassau, whether among Republicans or Democrats, and swore to improve trust in

government at a time when that is sorely lacking.

Kaminsky has also vowed to work harder with federal law-enforcement officials to defeat the rise of gang violence in Nassau. But he said he wanted to go deeper, and work with communities and schools dealing with such problems.

Our view is that Kaminsky, given his background in both government and the U.S. attorney's office, is an excellent choice for Nassau district attorney. We give him our wholehearted support, and voters should, too.

HERALD Endorsement



Todd Kaminsky

Ryan Cronin is choice for county comptroller

In the race to fill Nassau County Comptroller Jack Schnirman's post between Democrat Ryan Cronin and Republican Elaine Phillips, our choice to support Cronin boils down to his holistic plan to provide increased accountability across party lines and modernize the office of the comptroller.

Keeping in mind the controversy swirling around the office with the current comptroller because Schnirman overpaid tens of thousands as Long Beach city manager, Cronin, 40, said one of his goals is to gain back the trust of his constituents.

Indeed, Cronin, a Garden City resident, has a track record as a corporate attorney who has dealt with complex contract disputes and fraud claims, and of advocating for those who have been taken advantage of. Cronin defended more than a dozen victims of the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme and took on a global corporation to force the recall of a defective product that caused the injury and death of infants—in other words, watchdog-caliber experience.

Cronin raised a blueprint for the office's pri-

orities, both short- and long-term. As an immediate concern was the vendor payment process, which is plagued by chronically delayed payments that lead to extra costs for all parties involved. He also wants to proactively address Nassau's antiquated technology, which will not comply with coming accounting standards within the next three to five years.

Cronin also prioritizes building a bipartisan office, already pledging to appoint a Republican as his top deputy. Aligned with his apolitical view of how the office should run, he has critiqued County Executive Laura Curran for not collaborating with the county Republicans on jettisoning county fees and for perpetuating the structural gap between recurring county revenues and expenses.

HERALD Endorsement



Ryan Cronin

Unlike Cronin, who lost two State Senate races against Republican incumbent Kemp Hannon, Phillips has already had a political career. As Flower Hill mayor, she stabilized the village's finances and incentivized green projects, a tenure that attests to her familiarity with local bureaucracy and financial savvy.

However, it is her time as the 7th District senator that has raised some red flags regarding her leadership and partisanship. As the head of the Ethics Committee, the body held few meetings, which resulted in no material progress.

Phillips has strong professional financial experience as a financial analyst for Goldman Sachs and JP Morgan, where she juggled the competing needs of her clients and her employers; however, she did not provide specific new ideas for the office of comptroller.

Because of Cronin's independence from his party, his professional experience going after the big guys and his specific plan of action, the Herald supports Cronin. Vote for him on Election Day.



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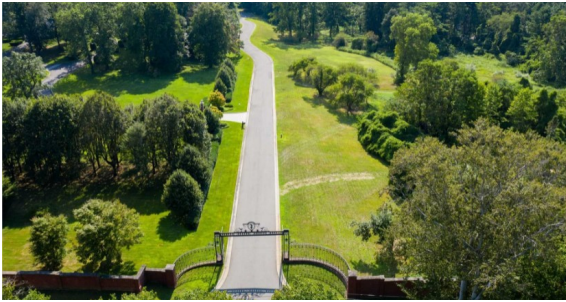


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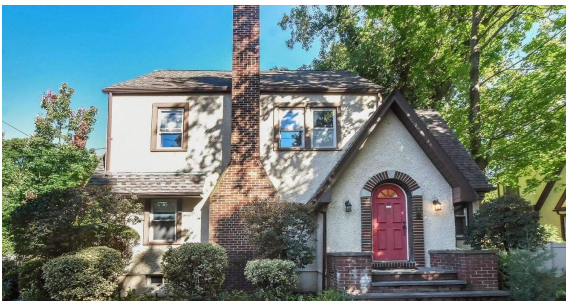
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